PRINT RUN 4,000. (I HEAR!!)

WARZINE tm

FREE!

PO BOX 148 BELFAST BT1.

SPEAK YOUR MIND EDITION — 13th JUNE 1989

This is a special issue of Warzine and will therefore contain none of the usual news about gigs or other events. Recently the Warzone Collective and Giro's have been coming under a lot of criticism about the way they 'manage' things. Its come to a point where the bickering has gone a little too far and we are in grave danger of causing irrepairable damage to what has been achieved in the last few years. To try to sort things out I (I say I because this issue of Warzine has not been instigated by the Warzone Collective nor by the people who have grievances) think it is necessary that all sides of the 'argument' be expressed and that we leave it up to our consciences, rather than our misguided priorities, to decide what the problem is and how it can be solved. What follows are individuals criticisms and individuals answers that were received just before printing so if anyone criticizes about imbalance please don't blame me as I gave good prior notice, both of the date articles should have been in for and of the date for printing. I'm not doing this just for the sake of reading material, reactions are what we need and not just from Belfast but from everywhere as I'm sure we're not the first to come up against this stupidity.

The following letter was sent to Warzone from Lisburn in an enveloped marked 'Giro's R.I.P' and 'Warzone - death of a friend'. We received it about a month ago.

GIRO'S ANARCHO CAFE EXTRODINAIRE - R.I.P.

I'm writing this in a state of depression. It's happened, the inevitable clash between profits and people, ex-friends and customers - and we all know who always comes out worst. It's really sad to see what was once a great achievement and the pride of all degenerate into a source of hurt and depression. People are turned away to make room for paying customers - as always profits (for whatever cause) appear to have come first. Prices and intolerance increase, happiness and friendship fade.

We are facing dark times and I am losing hope, even our gigs, once the cause of so much pleasure are now no more than solemn get-togethers. Your elitism annoys me, once again visions have been shattered - are we really any different ? I'm beginning to doubt, can anything really be changed ? I hope we are not too late, the damage may be undone - nothing is impossible, though much comes close, why must all this happen at a time when we should be flourishing ? Get down, now ! off the pillars that you don't even think exist.

We love you all, don't let it be in vain. The letter is not signed because I am only putting into words the thoughts of many

in hope

Anon

P.S. Is it any wonder that less people are going to gigs when plastic poseurs or is it plastic jesus kick people off stage. I thought it was only Con-flict that did that.

I was very saddened to read the above letter as it bought to a head the amount of bad feeling and misconception that is spreading like wildfire about Giro's, Warzone and the people who work there.

I'm sorry to hear that the person who wrote the letter actually believes that we are a profit making venture - profit for who ? - it's certainly not going into my pocket. Everyone in the centre is a volunteer, no wages, we even pay for our own food on the days we work. Rumour had it that the centre had £60,000 in the bank, that we were raising our prices to compete with Delaneys (can you believe it ?), I mean if you believe that then theres no hope in ever getting our point across - but people always like to hear the worst side of life - never the positive things like just how important a place like the centre is.

Admittedly we have personal differences, we're accused of being a clique, elite, you name it we've been labelled it, but really it comes down to a lack of communication between people, on the fault of everyone not just the big bad cafe workers.

Never, on the days that I have been working has anyone been thrown out in favour of paying customers. The only time when people are asked to leave is, when after a hard days slog in the cafe it's 5.00 pm - closing time !

Prices have never increased (except Barleycup 15p to 20p and veggy burgers from 45p to 50p and thats because we were undercharging far too long) in fact 5 years ago when I helped to work in the cafe in Just Books the prices were the same as they are today in Giro's. It's sad to think that rumour has made you and your friends feel as alienated as you do. The cafe has expenses, lots of them, it runs at a loss some weeks, the prices should be more, but we specifically haven't put them up because we feel they are fair.

I admit that some gigs haven't had a great atmosphere, but we should make our own enjoyment. Just because Warzone organise the gigs doesn't mean we should initiate peoples enjoyment - thats not our fault if you don't enjoy gigs -its entirely up to you - if (and I'm assuming a bit here, I apologise if I'm wrong) but, if its got to do with no alcohol then thats fair enough, but if you want to exclude the multitude of people who are very obviously under 18 from gigs, and they clearly enjoy them, then I find that quite elitest.

If you are losing hope, thats disillusioning, but I really would like to talk to you, face to face and not through letters, where I don't know if you understand our situation or not. Why don't you come up and get involved yourself, we really need the help. I'm not on a pillar, my feet are firmly on the ground. Talk to us, we have the same common objectives.

As for Plastic Jesus, I totally agree that kicking people off the stage is not on, but talk to them about it, communication is the answer. Also if you won't come to talk to us, either on a one to one basis or at a meeting, then I can only presume that your barriers are harder to break down than mine.

I'm not afraid to sign my name as I feel the centre is important, very important, and the more we talk the better the centre will work.

Love Sheena

x

Below are the accounts for the year 1988/1989 for the centre just to show who's ripping who off !

<u>OUTGOINGS</u> (Overheads)

Telephone 762.69
Rent + Insurance 2139.11

Rates 610.39
Electricity 153.24
Photocopying 658.28
Postage 266.00

TOTAL 4589.71

Purchases Repairs etc.

Vans 2434.84
Printing 577.57
Donations to
other groups 265.00
Recording 365.46
Maintenance, decorating &
repairs 2771.28

TOTAL 6414.16

INCOMINGS

Cafe takings 2771.00
-200.00 stolen
2571.00

Practice takings 1541.30
-100.00 stolen
1441.30

Donations 1130.30

TOTAL OUTGOINGS - £11,003.87
TOTAL INCOMINGS - £5142.30

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS.

OUTGOINGS

Average weekly expenditure -

Overheads 88.26
Purchases & Expenses 123.50

TOTAL 211.76

INCOMINGS

Average weekly is:

Cafe 49.44
Practice 27.72

TOTAL 77.16

Therefore, in effect we're running at a loss of, with just overheads considered, £11.10 per week and with purchases £134.60 per week.

On today 8.6.89 we have a grand total of £1111.17 at our disposal. We owe the Art College £100.00, the Electricity board £832.69 and the Mechanic £445.00 a total of £1377.69. If you take into account that £175.01 of what we have belongs to the Musicians collective that leaves us £441.53 in the red. If we can use the musicians collective money we'll still be £266.52 in the red. Now I may not be much of a mathematician but I don't think these accounts add up to the centre benefiting at other peoples expense. If you aren't convinced by the above then come down and see for yourself, we'll be more than happy to show you how we're ripping the 'kids' off.

Yours in Respect and Trust

The Warzone Collective

The criticisms made in this letter are the views, not of a few, but of a lot of people. We feel the centre, Warzone and ourselves have went through a lot of changes over the past year and a bit.
First point is the cafe. A lot of people have been saying that prices are high enough/too high. Well, contrary to this, we feel they should be put up. It needs to be a profit making place to support various ventures we suggest. The cafe can't be run at a loss (using capitalisms currency you have to play by capitalisms rules) if it is to survive at all. It needs a bigger range of food ie. chips & burgers etc. to appeal to the real working class youth, the original/proper purpose for the centre: rather than catering for the "in crowd". Hygiene should be thought of, and people with lice/body diseases/bad smells shouldn't be allowed in until, they decide to clean up their bodies and attitudes. There should be more to attract working class youth, such as football magazines ("when Saturday comes" zine) and others. Maybe also pool and snooker and an upstairs recreation area, as the Art workshop has failed and can't effectively run due to budget. People shouldn't be allowed to drink and smoke in the cafe. People working in the food area should be sufficiently clean and have their hair tied back and wear some sort of uniform, be it an apron, badge; just some description. People will of course accuse us of enforcing more rules and regulations, but to run a centre people just can't "off- handly" dismiss organisation of all descriptions. There should be more regulations until people involved come to replace blind acceptance with common sense. More advertisement is required to attract "Joe Public", and people off the street, rather than middle-class arty-types, students, hippies and "punks".

The practice room: Should be no banning of bands not coming to meetings, as the only ones who it seems to make it easy for is the "holy land in-crowd". Letters should be sent out instead. It should be £5 for the band, not each member, not everybody's rich enough. More emphasis on good gear (working) and lessons for learners to play, another original idea made obsolete, so no-one is allowed in to mess around and abuse gear and smoke dope/drink again more rules required. We're also pissed off with the attitudes of many people, be they "holier than thou" or whatever. Also the "In" way of thinking; dope smoking; Anarcho-hippy middle-class attitudes of many so called "punks". Punk was at one stage (still is for us) a working class protest. We call for pro-trade union stance and the abandonment of the trendy anti-violence anti class war view. This is just a tool for the rich - why worry if someone kicks the shit out of yuppies ??? Also get rid of the middle class Stonehenge literature - is as relevant as the bible. Religion is dead and gone - surely mankind is capable of rising above superstition. Its high time people wised up and came down to earth.
Gigs: Stop all reggae disco's and replace them with all-round disco's playing all kinds of music (h/core, oi, ska, soul, house, goth etc.) again to attract people from outside the "scene". And ad's should be made not just in Anarcho shit. H/core gigs should be every 3 weeks, if possible, and it is financially inviable for unknown bands outside Ireland, unless with a name band (ie. unknown to everyone not just a few - LP's etc in shops) to play. No more than 3 support bands, on directly after one another, no delays in between, and forget the bullshit banners coz no-ones interested. Strict timetable should be followed and more efficiency, ie. hired out gear until such times as good gear can be afforded (money raised from gigs should be invested for future use, then spent on gear like Marshalls etc.). No drugs allowed; and balcony sealed off, and all seats removed to get rid of current drug inspired apathy and to create a more intense feeling at gigs. People with no money should be let in, but not if

Constructive Criticism
(we could all use some improvement)

When we criticize someone there are generally two ways to do it: one is to slag them off and basically leave it at that. The other is to criticize what they've said or done, and then offer them an alternative which might be better. One is done simply to prove them wrong; the other is done to change their ideas or ways of doing things, and is done out of caring and the desire to change things rather than as a proof of superiority.

Non-violent activists have come up with several formulas with which to deliver 'constructive criticisms'. Most of these, though, I find to be fairly unpractical or too mechanical for everyday use. Instead I think the key to delivering a constructive criticism is to keep a few main things in mind.

First and foremost, think out your criticism before you say it! Try to think of how to say it as clearly as possible to get your point across.

Keep in mind how the person might react to receiving this criticism, and how you would feel if you were being criticized in this way. Try to word your criticism so that the person(s) receiving it won't get defensive and disregard it. Remember that the objective is to change that person's behaviour, not to create hostility between you, or to hurt their feelings.

Keep in mind that it's your responsibility as much as theirs to try to offer them a better way of doing/saying things. In fact, some of the best constructive criticism is merely to provide a good example yourself. By suggesting and following through on a better example, the criticism becomes constructive, because it offers the person being criticized the opportunity to change. Keep in mind, though, that you may not have all the 'right answers' yourself, so try to offer your criticism as an opinion only, and remain open to the discussion of the ideas.

Remember to explain why you're offering this criticism. (ie: "because I want us to work together more co-operatively"). Also explain clearly what exactly it is that you feel is problematic in their behaviour. Be very specific, don't just say "I think you're an asshole...". On that note, it doesn't hurt to be polite either.

Part of this whole process is also being able to receive criticisms well (this is the hardest part). Don't go stomping off in a rage every time someone has a differing viewpoint from your own. By being open to criticism yourself (admitting that you're not infallible can actually be a relief - making mistakes becomes less traumatic), and by listening, considering and changing where appropriate, you make others all the more willing to listen to you.

All in all, it's mostly just a matter of common sense whether or not you're really being constructive in your criticisms. These are just some ideas we've had in trying to work together collectively on various projects, and while we've still had our differences and haven't always been constructive, this kind of consideration and respect for eachother is pretty much the first step in being able to work together (for, you know, anarchy!).

love, **REALITY NOW**

I am writing this as someone who has not been involved in Warzone or the cafe for very long and although this perhaps means I don't fully realise the depth of feeling on both sides I thought I'd write to say what I feel.

At first I thought, perhaps naively, that everyone would be honest with each other, respecting others opinions and work - after all thats what part of being alternative means isn't it ? However, I soon found out that, due to many reasons, there were a lot of bad rumours circulating about the cafe and its workers. I am not here to defend them, they can do that themselves, but to ask for those who see something wrong to come and talk about it - a few letters aren't enough. If this doesn't happen there is a danger that all the potential the cafe has, and the hard work which goes into it, will disappear. I don't want that to happen because so much will be wasted. We'll never achieve anything by regulating ourselves into selfish insular groupings, what about a bit of understanding ? Of course there have been mistakes made but are they so major that everything has to stop because of them ? Perhaps most of the problem is that people see the cafe working, feel threatened and then try to wreck it. To these people all I can do is quote from an ABC prisoner - "Assholeism is spreading rumours and believing in rumours, assholeism is hostility instead of communication."

Love to you all,
Nicky.

Hey look, a Warzine full of lots of angry people shouting at each other. Everybody in despair because the rest of the crowd won't follow their particular course to revolution/ecstasy/apathy. Who is right and who is wrong.... <u>what</u> is right and what is wrong ? All I know is that there are a lot of people doing a lot of slobbering about something they basically know nothing about. And what right have these people to slobber ?

TALK - ACTION = NOTHING

How can people achieve anything if they don't work for it ? Sitting about in their own wee cliques moaning about the way the cafe is run will do nothing, so FUCK OFF. If you came down here, and tried to put what you believed (huh) into practice, to work for it, then maybe we could achieve something. But you won't. You know and I know it. To the people who are being taken in by the lies being spread about the collective, please realise that the liars <u>won't</u> come down here to try to change anything, because they are just total losers, and all they want to do is try and wreck the hard work of many dedicated caring people through their filthy destructive lies. Just tell them to FUCK OFF. We cannot, and <u>will not</u> have even the slightest iota of respect for you until you can get yourself up out of your smelly drunken hashed-up pit, and <u>do</u> something, because we work pretty hard nearly every day of our lives for this place.

TALK - ACTION = NEWSPAPER

<u>Gareth, Mere Pseud Mag.</u>

This has gotten completely out of hand. The almost inevitable mistrust, misinformation, ignorance and lies have finally emerged. So many people have noticed that Warzone isn't exactly what they want it to be, so they have given up on it. But think what you're giving up on. Think what there could be if you only took the time to get involved, if only you transformed your plentiful words into action. Recently there has been so much talk about what is going wrong with the centre and this has come (largely) from people who seem very reluctant to get involved with the running of the place. Maybe if these people showed their faces more often, they'd have an idea of how much effort it takes just to keep the centre running. Maybe if they thought beyond their initial reactions, they might realise why things are as they are. Maybe I'm wasting my time here..... human nature strikes again.

yrs exasperatedly,

Alistair

I'm writing this with mixed emotions. Its good to see that at least some people have got the guts to come out in the open and air their criticisms about Warzone and Giros (even if some haven't got the guts to put their name to it. 'Putting into words the thoughts of many'. I thought it was politicians who were the only people so conceited to suppose that they could speak for many). I didn't think energy should be wasted answering such ridiculous accusations but it seems that a lot of these 'working class kids' (having chosen to speak through their peers) are easily influenced when the bullshit is destructive and theres a good chance of putting people down.

While I was away I missed a nice wee event at the Anhrefn gig at the centre where the usual people (who seem to see themselves as a privileged few) came along pissed and demanded to get in to 'their centre' free, never mind that Two bands had travelled up from Dublin and had to be paid. So of course when it came to the people who organised the gig asking people to leave the right on contingent protested vigorously (how many of you were out on the Martin Foran day of action protesting with such commitment) the people who were trying to get home after having worked hard to try and make the gig a success were called fascists and death threats were written on the wall about them (Don't worry Des Hash is enough to keep any rampant murderer at bay). No I wasn't here but I've seen it so many times, people coming sheepishly to gigs and other events carrying their courage in bottles and tins and as the night progresses the real rebel comes out, they'll criticise you, they'll drag everything you believe in and are trying to work for through the dirt, then after putting up their little protest at the end of the night they'll stagger off home, smashing a few windows indiscriminately on the way and the next day they'll go to their friends and bitch about how shit the centre is and they'll all convince each other what real Anarchists they are.

We have a criticism about how our gigs are solemn events, how people don't turn up at them. Oh big bad plastic jesus kicking people off stage, plastic jesus are four individuals, I am one of them at the moment, I never kicked anyone off stage, Plastic poseur ? I don't think so, I don't agree with people being kicked off stage, Why don't you ask the person who done it why they done it ? At least they're up there trying in their own way, what the fuck do you do apart from bad mouthing people behind their backs ? We had no problem with people turning up to see bands like the Instigators, JME, Generic etc. It was just when lesser known bands like Indian Dream and Chaotic Subversion came over that all the people who cry about supporting the scene etc. went off to the park with a carry-out instead, well that was their loss not ours, both bands were excellent and were very honest and well intentioned people which is more than I can say for a lot of the big 'crowd pullers. You ask are we really any different, yes we are. We try to work together despite our differences (which are numerous if you took the time to come down and get involved) we try not to spread bad feeling, we try not to speculate about something we know nothing about, we try to look into things rather than judge things at face value. If you see our unwillingness to justify every decision we make as elitism then we are elite, but think about it, what would we get done if we had to explain and argue our every move with a bunch of cynics who can't overcome their own helplessness to do things for themselves ? By asking us to get off our pillars, is that a denial of yours ? (yes I know a pretty bland question but you define my pillars and I'll define yours ok ?!). Please don't pervert the meaning of the word love by using it as a description of your feelings towards us. If you loved us you would not have presumed that we would put profits before our friends (if you even remotely knew us you wouldn't have assumed that). Giros RIP ? I'm afraid not . As this newsheet will tell you we are as committed as we ever were or ever will be, Slaggers RIP would be more apt I'd say from the amount of negative feedback we got from people.

Ciaran and Shane and cohorts. I don't wish to slag a lot of your criticisms as they have obviously been well thought out and are your points of view, suffice to say we're trying to provide an alternative, not a youth club, a bar, a trade union centre or a training centre for authoritarians. Again we run into people speaking for everyone (whats wrong everyone, cat got your tongue, can you not write ?). The only criticism (and its a pretty major one let me tell you) I have is your washed out cliches about the working class (the RUC are working class, the SAS and all armies are working class, if these are examples of WC innovation you can stuff your working class up your arse as far as it will go) wise up. You say anti-violence and anti-class war is a tool of the rich... NO Class is a tool of the rich. The elite create the environment for different levels of wealth in a system, the two biggest being categorised into middle and working class. So while all the big macho boys go out and beat the so-called middle class yuppies the wealthy elite stay protected in their mansions living of both so-called classes. Class War in Belfast ? Don't make me laugh, what have they done against the real scumbags of the city, the top judges, the bosses, the politicians, senior police officers ? So far all I've seen or heard of are people like yourselves ranting about working class politics up the back of Laverys (oh yes Charlie Lavery is a real shining example of a working class hero, making a more than very comfortable living from people like yourselves). Politics begin and end with the individual, there is no class or section of people who have the right to enforce their way of life on others, working class ? working for what. Working for shorts building missile guidance systems, working for the police killing children with plastic bullets, working for the prison service keeping people like themselves locked up, working to uphold a system they despise because they can't find a way out cos people like you patronise them (chips, football, snooker, pool - so this is working class eh ?). Punk started off as a classless movement it was only shitheads like Gary Bushell and co. who brought the class aspect into it so they could make a living by glorifying a myth that gullable people like yourselves have fallen for time and time again. So what's this got to do with the cafe and the collective ? Its my feelings on what the cafe and the collective stands for and I'm not trying to ram them down your throat so don't expect us to ram yours down anyone elses. Class and race divisions have kept succesive parasites and I don't think the purpose of the centre is to perpetuate that state of affairs. If you want to call for a pro trade union stance then call for it elsewhere cos as far as I can see the trade unions have done more to defeat the workers of this country than the Thatcher Govt. could ever have hoped to do. Until we can work together regardless of race, creed, colour or cult we will all be pissing in the wind.

PEOPLE, PEOPLE NOT COLOUR CLASS OR CREED, DON'T DESTROY THE PEOPLE DESTROY THEIR POWER AND GREED. (Some middle class hippies).

Love and Honesty

Petesy
xx

Latest news - cafe has been broken into again, on the night of 12th of June. Losses around £50, so now we have even less money than everybody believes.

drunk coz they've spent money on booze. An effort should be made to attract big name bands and to get rid of insular feeling in the scene. No benefits other than the cafe until such times as it is financially viable.
No exceptions towards visiting bands (and even local people) because of differing political views (ie. left wing/Punk and Oi/metal) from the Anarcho crowd whose views aren't even objective anyway ! For visiting bands doors should be raised to £2.50 and £3 for U.S. bands.
The centre does need a hell of a lot of changes if it is to survive and develop, at the minute its heading for its grave, and in the state its in we wouldn't mourn too much. So c'mon and salvage it before its too late. We'd appreciate it if there was no sly comments at the end of this letter dismissing it as crap; (It is the purpose of this newsheet, as well as giving people space to air their criticisms, to give people the chance to answer those critisms. Typist.) its the voice of many, who up until now have stayed relatively quiet, but no more !

Ciaran, Shane and the East Side Crew (and loads more from all roads).
N.I.H.C. '89 Belfast Class War

Hello to Ciaran, Shane & everyone else who feels the same way as they do. I'm sure I'm not the only one to be writing a reply to your letter, but I hope my comments will be read as objectively as I have tried to read yours.

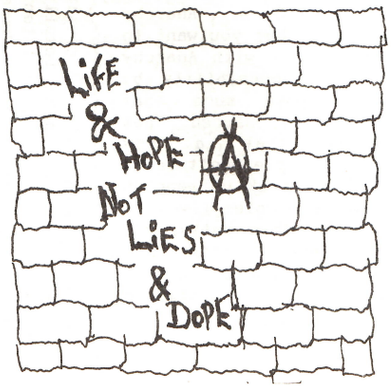
I think that many of the points you have made are very good in that they are constructive with well meaning behind, the idea of trying to improve (save ?) the centre being in mind. Contrary to what you may think though, there is not a decision making committee running the place, in the case of the cafe - decisions are often left to the individual working that day. Aprons are there for workers to use, its up to them whether they do or not. I don't see why burgers and chips is more "Working Class" than anything else, that sounds like an Edwina Currie rumour to me ! For many people, their meal in "Giro's" is their main meal of the day, so it is necessary to have it more nutritious than chips etc., also, the safety of cooking like that in the cafe would definitely be questionable.

You say the Artworkshop has failed - Why ? It has hardly even begun, and if there hasn't been much interest in it to date, surely thats up to people who <u>are</u> interested in it to change and not us to shut it down so simply. As for the practice room - you couldn't be further from the truth when you say the decisions are made to suit the 'Holyland in-crowd'. Not that it makes any difference anyway, but residents of this part of the town are in the minority at the meetings, where all decisions are made.

Gigs and Reggae Disco's. The disco's are organised and run by the art college, so we can't take the rap for that ! As for gigs, its a good idea about closing the balcony off, but pretty impossible as people have access to it via the stage. Because of the risk of oversaturation we are not in a position to 'invite' bands any more, and so organise gigs for bands who write to us. We don't see any reason why we should be "just another gig promoter", and so decide collectively which bands to do or not to do. If you're not happy about it, all I can say is get involved, come to the meetings or speak to someone constructively, don't think that you will be ignored, after all, you attend the gigs and your opinion is as valid as anyones, but its not unreasonable to expect that the people doing all the work for the gigs should decide who gets to play, don't you think ? We have to weigh up the pros and cons of putting gig (or cafe) prices up - how many people will we lose if the prices go up, compared to the way things are now ? As for the equipment, yes its fucking awful, but we can't afford to buy gear for the practice room or for gigs, though recently the bands playing have been supplying the gear so the sound quality has improved.

I feel your attitudes too easily dismiss everything under the derogatory label of "middle class hippy" - its not the purpose of the centre to tell people how to live their lives, if you think everyone in Warzone comes under that heading, maybe you should look a little harder and see what the people involved are really like. I am not even going to bother arguing for or against using class differences in arguments, because it really isn't relevant (just as your criticisms of the banners aren't relevant - are they really so offensive to you ? They must be doing some good to make you feel so strongly !). There are many different Anarchist theories which different people adhere to, hopefully we will accommodate them all, from pacifist hippydom to raging class war, and everything in between. Who gives a shit any way ? There would be no problem working together if everyone had a tiny bit more tolerance of each other. As for all these rules and regulations, who enjoys them and who obeys ? Isn't it better that we all try and agree on some of these points between us rather than telling people to agree with them! Finally, I reckon a pool table isn't a bad idea at all - any ideas where we'd put it (or where we'd get the money to buy it) ?

Julia x



My personal secretary has telexed me to the Warzone yacht while cruising around the Carribean last weekend and I'm just about to charter the Warzone private jet back to Belfast to sort out this rumour that Warzone are ripping the kids off... Wise up !!
I've known a lot of back-stabbing and bitching has been going on for some time now (for years in fact) but I never really took it too seriously before because I always knew the kind of people who indulged in it. Without wanting to bring this down to a personal slagging match (but here I go) they were people who would always criticize you behind your back and be oh so nice to your face, they'd never make an attempt to sort any problems out because then they'd have nothing to moan about. But thats ok. I came to terms with their insincerity a long time ago and it has no effect on me. What saddens me is that they are managing to poison the minds of others against the collective, and that is why I am writing this to give you my 'side' of the story.
While I was growing up I always found it difficult to fit in with the people that I knew, because of my beliefs and so on. I always felt that I didn't belong anywhere. About three years ago I met some people who had rented a nearly derelict building warehouse just off Donegall street. They were doing lots of work on it to change it into a centre for people to go, somewhere it didn't matter if you were from a Catholic or Protestant background, somewhere it didn't matter what you looked like. They planned to open a veggie cafe, a cheap practice room equipped with their own gear, an arts workshop and they hoped to start up gigs that they could organize themselves, free of bouncers and hall owning money grabbers. They worked long and hard to make their dream a reality and eventually, they have. I don't suppose that any of them ever expected (or wanted even) to be thanked for what they had done but then again, I don't think they expected to be called thieves, liars and cheats either.
What we have in Belfast is really special. We are really lucky to have Giros and the centre, really lucky to have all the gigs, the hunt sab group and everything. It just didn't happen overnight, it came about by a lot of hard work. Its not always going to be there, it needs your support and your ideas to keep it going. There are many things that the Warzone collective could be doing but it can't be done without your help. Certainly the collective is far from perfect but the problems we have must be challenged face to face, not behind backs. That achieves nothing but bad feeling and bitterness. I was glad in a way when that letter came from Lisburn because at least someone had made a bit of an attempt to bring problems to the surface, and I hope this newsheet helps to sort out any misunderstandings. The only thing I've left to say is that we should remember when we talk about the 'centre' & the 'collective' its poeple that we mean not just bricks & mortar, people with feelings, people who care.

Love Louanne

Since I've been involved in the centre I've met a lot of brilliant people. It was god to find a group of people who were into the same things that I was. I got pretty fucked off when I realised the conflict that was going on behind peoples backs. The establishment of cliques has been happening for ages. Others who are outside specific cliques are regarded as inferior for some reason. Some people like to party, some people are into keeping Giros functioning, there are punks, thrashers, hippies, and peace convoy travellers. We are all supposed to be building an alternative to society but instead we categorise and label each other just like the state would do.

We all believe in an alternative to the nine to five system, we all say we want to be in control of our lives. If we can't even talk to each other then what the fuck is the point in talking about Anarchy. We judge each other by age, sex and appearance. We can't seem to look any further. I have been guilty of this too but i'm trying to change that. Its really annoying when people who are trying to build a new society are too fucked up with their own image. People who complain about the centre are usually the ones who don't work there.

To all the people who call me a hippy and think I'm inferior because I'm not a punk, well, I'm not a part of a dying craze of flower power dunderheads who were too stoned out of their heads to change the society they were against ie. "with my flower I will change the world by lighting up a spliff and forgetting about it ". I don't have a label. I'm just myself.

Some people are annoyed with the way the centre is run. As I said earlier most people who complain are the ones who don't even work there. **Sunday meetings are for voicing opinions. People can come and speak their mind here instead of backstabbing. Alternatively they can come and work in the centre and see why certain things are as they are. Actions speak louder than words.**

There are people who complain about rules in Giros. These "rules" were established to help attract people from outside the alternative bracket. Others are made to combat burglary and theft.

Just because some of us are into different things or because we all look different doesn't give us the right to slag. Our so-called leaders would love it if all that the Anarchist movement could do was fight among themselves. We should look for the positive qualities and not the negative qualities in each other.

Why do we fight like this when 7,500 students lie murdered in China, while the RUC try to smash our community, while the rainforests are hacked down ? Why don't we sort our problems out with each other, why can't we love each other instead of forcing our images and opinions down peoples throats ? It doesn't matter how hard core you are, or how hard you can thrash, thats going to change fuck all.

Lastly if anybody wants to say something to me I'd rather it was said to my face. I'm willing to listen. Maybe by talking we can sort it out.

Love, Peace and Chaos

Danny.

The sparking point at the end of a long build up of the row about fascism and a management in Warzone seemed to be the Anhrefn gig. I was helping to organise that gig, and because of that I got unbelievable hassle all night. I even received an extremely "amusing" death threat. The people who were organising that gig were accused of fascism because we wouldn't let people upstairs to wreck the place, and we were closing up after the gig - not a party. During the gig we were told (by themselves) that certain people would not be leaving and that we would have to use brute force if we wanted to get them out. If we were being fascist (which I don't think we were), then these people were more guilty of it. I recognise most of them were drunk - theres nothing wrong with that - but its no excuse.

Some might say we were actually being fascist by not opening upstairs and locking up instead of leaving the centre open. Well, we opened upstairs from time to time to let people go to the toilet, phone people, clean themselves, etc., but some decided that they were going to stay up there anyway, charging in while the door was open. The reason why upstairs wasn't open was because it gets extremely, extremely dirty when there are lots of people partying in it, and <u>we</u> had to clean up, take responsibility for the keys the next day and make sure the place was properly locked so that the centre was not once again burgaled - we've already had enough nicked and broken, ensuring that we're a bit more careful (Maybe a bit paranoid) now. Nobody upon nobody came to talk to anybody about the possibility of an all night party after the gig. Organising a gig is a lot more difficult than many people seem to think, and nobody came to say that they would take responsibility for cleaning up, the keys, locking up, the money, making sure the P.A. worked, making sure nothing was broken and so on. Of course if responsible people come along and are prepared to do all this, I at least would be more than happy for people to have parties, assuming that everyone would take control of themselves. Anarchy doesn't mean doing what you want to anybody or anything - with Anarchy comes a lot of responsibility by individuals to make sure that everyones freedom is ensured. That means ensuring that a few mindlessly drunk people don't break up the centre, or break up peoples bones, or break up peoples lives.

It all goes wider than petty, all night parties, and I think its healthy that we should undergo <u>constructive</u> criticism from time to time, or we may stagnate or actually regress back to what we're trying to create an alternative to. The main thing we seem to need at the minute with each other is TRUST. Unfortunately, time after time, events seem to indicate that you just can't trust anyone (on all sides I suppose) - this is a horrifying thought. True trust means you trust and more importantly are trustworthy throughout life, not when you want favours....

I hope this doesn't sound preachy, but its not for anyone to follow - its for you to think about !

I (still) love you all,

Des.

To Everyone,

Recently there has been a lot of back-stabbing and name calling in the collective as I am sure you all know, which is not doing anybody any good. All it does is waste time.

I think its about time we stopped it all and pull together and do something constructive, after all, if we don't do something soon we aren't going to have a cafe or centre to bitch about. Some of you will say good but think about it. If you're in a band where are you going to practice ? If you're not what are you going to do on Saturdays and where are you going to get your cheap veggie food ?

Theres no point telling your mates whats wrong with the cafe, you have to tell everyone if you want something done about it. It would just be a waste if <u>all of us</u> let the cafe fall to bits !

Iain
(Buff)

So there you have it... A criticism I heard (not from the criticizers mouths of course) while compiling this was that not everyone got a letter telling them of my intentions to put it together, I'll try and put the record straight here. The letters were distributed to households I knew of in the University area where I thought people may be interested one way or the other in contributing to it. As I do not frequent Lavery's I was not in a position to tell the people concerned there but I did tell people who drink there to spread the word. A lot of the articles submitted are from people who never got letters either.

In the end I'm left thinking that a lot of people expected too much of Warzone/The Centre. We're not gods, far from it, if you don't like the way the place is run then its up to you to try and change that, we won't bite your nose off if you suggest things could be done better. I realise that to some people we are too strict in ways, that can only be understood if you get involved and find out why. On the other hand a lot of us involved in the collective could perhaps revaluate our own behaviour, a lot of us (myself included) seemingly still haven't grasped the true meaning of collectivism. People aren't encouraged to get involved when they see individuals hogging all the most crucial and rewarding jobs in the centre and trying to run everything at once. Whatever happens everyone is going to have to come down to earth if anything is going to progress, no-one is blameless if there is a problem, we're all involved in some way. We can't say fuck sectarianism if we're still practicing just that. Maybe it means making a fresh start, what do you think ?